

Weekly Broadcast No. 220

HONORABLE STROM THURMOND

United States Senator from South Carolina

Manion Forum Network

Sponsor: Manion Forum • South Bend, Indiana

December 14, 1958

COMPLACENCY BRINGS ON TWILIGHT OF AMERICAN FREEDOM

DEAN MANION: In the struggle to maintain Constitutional government in and for this country, political party lines now mean less than nothing. Those who question this statement should remember that when the Honorable Adam Clayton Powell ran for reelection to Congress from New York City last November, he had previously obtained the official party nominations of both Republicans and Democrats.

Over this microphone two weeks ago, you heard an able and convincing defense of constitutional government by a distinguished Republican Congressman, the Honorable Bruce R. Alger, of Texas. At this time, my distinguished guest is a Democrat and one of the most respected members of the United States Senate.

Above and beyond everything else, however, this gentleman is an American patriot who consistently puts the vital interests of his country ahead of personal and partisan advantages. In 1948, while he was Governor of his great state and when men of smaller stature stultified their convictions and ran to the cover of political conformity, this man had the courage to lead a great political crusade for constitutional principle.

As the States' Rights candidate for President, he carried four states of the Union and rolled up a total of 39 electoral votes. The recollection of this courageous action still haunts the dreams of political professionals who put party victory ahead of American interest.

For a discussion of constitutional government, it is a pleasure to turn this microphone over to the Honorable Strom Thurmond, of South Carolina.

SENATOR THURMOND: Thank you, Dean Manion. I welcome this opportunity to discuss with you the challenge which faces the American people as a result of the assaults being made on our constitutional form of government.

The pattern of our post-war existence has developed into one which may be generally characterized as one of continuing international crisis and relative domestic plenty. From these circumstances many have apparently concluded that the greatest danger to our country lies from without.

Nothing could be further from the truth. The gravest danger to our country is from within, and our enemies' most powerful weapon is our own complacency.

It is only fair and objective to realize that our complacency is not entirely self-originated. Its instillation has been surreptitiously encouraged and nurtured by our enemies and its growth unwittingly aided by some of our best intentioned leaders.

Our humanitarian instinct comprises one of our strongest national traits. It is our very humanitarianism, admirable and worthy though it be, on which our complacency is founded.

By using a subtle, sometimes even subliminal approach, our enemies have enlisted our unthinking support of causes apparently for the promotion of "human rights", but which, when carefully examined, reveal an underlying advancement of collectivism.

We find ourselves even more vulnerable to plans for promoting the economic welfare of all, or a particular portion of our people, at the instance of government. We are inclined to direct our exclusive attention to the purportedly noble purpose of the plan, but to ignore the threatened jeopardy to our individual liberty and the impracticality of utilizing the tool of government, in lieu of personal and private initiative.

No program, no decision, no action, proposed for or undertaken by the Federal government, should be free from the most careful scrutiny and logical judgment of each and every American citizen.

Individual liberty and practicality must be weighed against not only the purported material benefit, but also against the practically probable benefits.

Nothing should be accepted at face value, for only by laying aside emotional impulses and submitting each matter to a logical and objective analysis can we avoid the pitfalls of collectivism.

By the Grace of God, we have been the beneficiaries of a constitutional republican form of government. Our forefathers drew from the wisdom of the ages and from the foresight granted them by the Almighty in charting the framework for a government which allowed maximum control by the individual of his own destiny, while at the same time insuring to its citizens the functions which governments are best able to perform.

We are now confronted with a two-pronged attack on our constitutional form of government: First, the usurpation by each of the three branches of the Federal Government of the rights belonging to the others; and, second, the usurpation by all three branches of the Federal Government of the rights reserved to the states. Both attacks have been spurred on by various groups interested solely in political aggrandizement.

The attack is led by the present occupants of the Supreme Court. Intoxicated by their own words and seeming success; supported, even encouraged to a large extent, by an administration motivated from pressure group politics; secure from a Congress unwilling to curb their abuses, these nine would-be oligarchs seek to impose their vicious and hypocritical ideology on a sovereign people, in violation of the basic tenets of our republican form of government, as expressed and limited in the Constitution of the United States.

Their opinions have thwarted the efforts of Congress to insure internal security of the country. Their usurpations have practically reduced sovereign states to political subdivisions of a national oligarchy.

STATE JUDGES RIP SUPREME COURT

The Chief Justices of 36 states, speaking with a remarkable degree of restraint, expressed it in these words:

"It has long been an American boast that we have a government of laws and not of men. We believe that any study of recent decisions of the Supreme Court will at least raise considerable doubt as to the validity of that boast."

Although the Supreme Court leads the attack, the other branches of the Federal Government are also contributing nails to the coffin of our Constitution. The 85th Congress, particularly, has no claims to laurels from advocates of constitutional government.

It was the 85th Congress which invaded the field of education and passed a Federal aid bill, setting the precedent for general Federal aid to education and pregnant with means for the Federal Government to usurp rights of the states.

It was the 85th Congress which admitted Alaska to the Union, thereby setting the precedent for admission of other non-contiguous territories--territories peopled with persons who have no heritage in American political or religious philosophy.

It was the 85th Congress which supported such Socialistic programs as public housing and area redevelopment.

It was the 85th Congress which, in its second session, alone, spent the country over \$12 billion further into debt.

It was the 85th Congress which refused to come to the aid of victimized workers, although the Congress' own investigations were responsible for the revelation of repeated deprivation of rights of the working man.

It was the 85th Congress which refused to deal with a power-mad court, lest it incur the wrath of left-wing and minority pressure groups.

It was the 85th Congress which compromised the right of trial by jury.

The Executive branch constitutes the third attacking force. Its very size comprises a threat. It consists of 13 departments; 16 commissions; 24 administrations; 23 types of government corporations; 711 offices; 96 services; 96 bureaus; 621 divisions; 45 boards and 471 miscellaneous or functional bodies.

These are 2,116 tentacles of control which reach out and restrict individuality and curb initiative. Exclusive of uniformed military personnel, the Executive employed a total of 2,000,729 persons as of January 1, 1958.

I do not mean to imply that the attack has progressed beyond a point of no return. Despite the yoke of indebtedness and taxation placed on their necks, and the loss of individual liberty which they have suffered, the American people still hold a grasp on the power of control of their government.

It is the very fact that the people do have it within their power to halt this assault on constitutional government that causes me to conclude that complacency is the gravest threat to our continued liberty.

We are losing the war with Communism and Socialism. The battles we are losing are not on the beaches of Lebanon nor in the Straits of Formosa; rather they are in the court rooms, the halls of Congress and in the multitude of offices of the Federal bureaucracy.

Not only is there little sign of resistance, but our people appear oblivious to the struggle.

Each time the court substitutes its judgment of what they think is morally right, rather than applying the law as written, some large measure of individual liberty is destroyed. Each time the words of the Constitution are ignored, they lose some of their potency.

Every individual may not immediately be affected by every decision of this type, but the particular right left unprotected may be the one you will badly need tomorrow.

Each time Congress votes a so-called benefit at government expense and control, individual liberty suffers a constriction. Government produces no wealth, and for each benefit there must be a charge. The individual produces the wealth and he must pay the charge, not only in money, but also, and even more important, in the surrender of an individual right.

When the Government provides for you something you desire, it must be on the Government's terms and conditions. Not only is the particular choice surrendered, but in the surrender, the power to choose is diminished from non-use. Thus is the philosophy of collectivism instilled in a people.

Each time a new Federal bureau is created, it is built to exercise a function previously exercised by individuals. For each new regulation issued, a higher degree of conformity is required; and collectivism, whether Communistic or Socialistic in appearance, exists through conformity.

NATIONAL IDEALS VANISHING FAST

Where is the spirit of '76, which sought not security, but opportunity? What has happened to the belief that each man should be free to pursue his own destiny? Where is the rugged individualism which, through free private enterprise, raised our Nation to the highest and most luxurious standard of living the world has ever known?

Surely the love of these forces still exists in the heart of every true American. But, in our fixation with material security and the threat of Communism from without, we have left open the back door. We have relaxed our vigilance of the enemy in our midst.

At the conclusion of the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin was asked by a bystander what form of government had been proposed. He replied, "You have a republican form of government, if you can keep it." Franklin wisely recognized that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty, and that complacency breeds tyranny.

We can keep our constitutional republican form of government. It cannot be preserved by a few, for the very concept we seek to preserve still insures the sovereignty of all the people. Those who would halt our march to Socialism must make their voices heard. The American people must be shaken and awakened from their materialistic and foreign conscious state of hypnosis.

Marx and Engels said that the simplest definition of Communism was the abolition of private property. It matters not whether private property is abolished by force from without or by taxes for so-called humanitarian and welfare programs of our own Government, the end result is the same. In either event, Socialism or Communism is inevitably accompanied by abolition of individual liberty.

The American people must demand a return to constitutional government. We do not know how much longer we have to act. With every evasion of the Constitution by the Court, with every piece of Socialistic legislation passed by the Congress, with every increase in the already overgrown Federal bureaucracy, the time grows shorter.

We are dangerously close to the point of no return. We should act now while we may, for tomorrow our liberty may die, and our power to act will be lost.

DEAN MANION: Thank you, Senator Thurmond, of South Carolina. Your presence in Washington is a source of encouragement to patriots everywhere.

Copyright, Manion Forum, 1958

PRINTED COPIES OF THIS SPEECH BY UNITED STATES SENATOR STROM THURMOND SHOULD BE PLACED IN THE HANDS OF INDUSTRIALISTS, BUSINESSMEN, EMPLOYEES, STOCKHOLDERS, CUSTOMERS.

COMPANIES AND INDIVIDUALS ARE URGED TO ORDER COPIES IN QUANTITIES. PRICES: UP TO 2,000 COPIES, 15¢ PER COPY; 2,001 TO 5,000 COPIES, 12¢ PER COPY; 5,001 TO 10,000 COPIES, 10¢ PER COPY; OVER 10,000 COPIES, 9¢ PER COPY.

SEND FOR THIS BOOK: "ADMIRAL KIMMEL'S STORY", HENRY REGNERY COMPANY, 64 EAST JACKSON BOULEVARD, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS - \$3.75.

EXTRA COPIES — 15 CENTS EACH

Subscription rates for weekly radio speeches of Dean Clarence Manion:

26 weeks — \$3.90; 52 weeks — \$7.80

It is suggested you order in bulk and distribute to friends, business associates, students, teachers and fellow employees.